

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for forming a composite image in an image forming device, comprising:

an imaging source device that provides input image data of a document;

a digital graphic element forming unit that processes user-supplied digital graphic element data; and

a composite image forming device coupled to the imaging source device and the digital graphic element forming unit, the composite image forming device forming a composite image based on the input image data and the user-supplied digital graphic element data.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital graphic element forming unit allows a user to supply as user-supplied digital graphic element data at least one standard or individually user-customized digital graphic element wherein the data is stored on at least one digital data storage medium.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the digital graphic element forming unit further comprises:

a digital graphic element input interface that is usable to input image data associated with the at least one standard or individually user-customized digital graphic element from the at least one digital data storage medium;

a digital graphic element selecting device that allows the user to select the at least one standard or individually user-customized digital graphic element from the at least one digital data storage medium;

a digital graphic element attribute adjusting device that allows the user to adjust attributes of the selected digital graphic element; and

a digital graphic element positioning device that allows the user to position the selected digital graphic element in an output composite image.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the user can select the at least one standard or individually user-customized digital graphic element from among a plurality of standard or individually user-customized digital graphic elements stored on the at least one digital data storage medium.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the user can adjust one or more attributes of the at least one digital graphic element.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the one or more attributes include at least one of color, contrast, clarity, and intensity of the at least one digital graphic element.

7. The system of claim 3, wherein the user can choose the position of the digital graphic element in an output composite image.

8. The system of claim 3, further comprising a separate digital graphic element user interface that provides the user separate discrete capability for controlling the digital graphic element forming unit apart from an input interface by which the user controls the image forming device.

9. The system of claim 1, further comprising a user interface that allows a user to select and manipulate the attributes of at least one of the input image and the output composite image.

10. The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one data storage unit for storing at least one of input image data, user-supplied digital graphic element data and composite image data.

11. The system of claim 1, further comprising an image sink for displaying an output composite image.

12. The system of claim 1, further comprising an output image formatting device to adjust the format of the output composite image to be compatible with the display capability of an image sink.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital graphic element forming unit is part of the image forming device.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital graphic element forming unit is a separate unit from the image forming device, the digital graphic element forming unit and the image forming device being coupled to permit transmission of data regarding the digital graphic elements to the image forming device.

15. A photocopying device including the system of claim 1.

16. A printer including the system of claim 1.

17. A facsimile transmission device including the system of claim 1.

18. An image scanning device including the system of claim 1.

19. An image reproducing device including the system of claim 1.

20. A method for forming a composite image in an image forming device, comprising:

obtaining an input image;
obtaining at least one user-supplied digital graphic element; and
forming a composite image by combining the input image and the at least one user-supplied digital graphic element.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the input image is obtained from a printed document.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein obtaining at least one user-supplied digital graphic element comprises providing a device to read digital graphic element data from a user-supplied digital data storage medium.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein obtaining at least one user-supplied digital graphic element further comprises selecting, by a user, the at least one user-supplied digital graphic element from among a plurality of user-supplied digital graphic elements stored on the user-supplied digital data storage medium.

24. The method of claim 20, further comprising adjusting, by a user, one or more attributes of the obtained digital graphic element prior to forming the composite image.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein one or more attributes adjusted by a user include at least one of color, contrast, clarity, or intensity of the at least one obtained digital graphic element.

26. The method of claim 20, further comprising determining, by a user, a position of the obtained digital graphic element in the to be formed composite image prior to forming the composite image.

27. The method of claim 21, further comprising storing at least one of acquired input image data, user-supplied digital graphic element data, and formed composite image data.

28. The method of claim 20, further comprising outputting the formed composite image to a compatible image sink.